

July 1843

9 hr. in aft

Monday Night

My dear Father,

Thank you for your  
note.

As it was at your desire that  
I become one of the Council of the Society,  
I ought not to withdraw  
from that body without stating to you  
my reason for doing so.

To-day, Lord Braybrooke being  
in the chair, and, I presume, at his  
suggestion, a resolution was proposed that  
a strict enquiry should be made as to  
the decency & propriety of all works proposed

for publication, and, moreover, that, if  
any work, which was about to be  
printed for the Society, should contain  
a few indecencies or improprieties, the  
editor of that work should previously  
hold a discussion with the Council about  
the omission or alteration of the objectionable  
pages!!!

This was so flagrantly absurd,  
that, after the meeting, I withdrew my  
name from the Council, with a positive  
declaration that hereafter I would  
edit no more works for the Society (Roy's  
Lecture, perhaps, offending against the  
new regulation, & Thacker's Pastor of  
Pleasure being in some pages decidedly  
gross).



Lord B. talked in a way, which  
showed that he was thoroughly ignorant  
of, and altogether unable to appreciate,  
the sort of literature, for the publication  
of which the Percy Society was originally  
instituted. As almost all the pieces  
of wit and fancy written during the  
reigns of Elizabeth & James (to say  
nothing of earlier productions of that  
kind) are more or less tainted with  
indecoracy, the Percy Society will now  
be obliged either to forgo such  
publications entirely, or to print them  
forth mutilated & imperfect, and  
consequently, not worth a straw.

(Yours always

A. Dyce

